

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, FLAGPOLE
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 32)
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
Saint Louis
Independent City
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-Q
MO-1943-Q

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, FLAGPOLE (BUILDING 32)

HABS No. MO-1943-Q

Location: Building 32, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7258552 E 9965866 N

Date of Construction: ca. 1930-1935 (original flagpole)

Designer: U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) (original flagpole and layout)

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Present Use: Flagpole

Significance: A flagpole in front of Building 1 has displayed the American Flag ever since the first half of the 1930s. A brick-paved memorial plaza has also been recently installed around the flagpole area. The flagpole and memorial recognize the patriotism and military service of the veterans who receive treatment and other services at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division.

Project Information: This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

The Flagpole (Building 32) is located on a semicircular lawn in front of the main portico of the Main Hospital (Building 1). The flagpole sits south of the Main Hospital, separated from it by a semicircular asphalt driveway. The Flagpole itself is a tall metal mast that displays the American flag and likely has been replaced several times. The flagpole is situated in a concrete walkway that leads from the Main Hospital through an area landscaped with grass and trees, and into a large asphalt parking lot. The walkway takes on a circular form around the flagpole, and either side of the concrete walkway is lined with red bricks. A small bronze plaque is mounted atop a piece of pink granite that sits immediately south of the flagpole. The plaque and brick pavement appear to have been installed within the last ten years.

History:

The Flagpole (Building 32) is located on a site that was originally part of a large lawn south of the Main Hospital (Building 1), forming the south portion of the large oval-shaped layout of the U.S. Veterans' Hospital at Jefferson Barracks. VA Hospital building lists date the Flagpole to 1952. A flagpole does not appear at this location on a 1925 plot plan¹ of the U.S. Veterans Hospital, but an aerial photograph of the hospital taken between 1930 and 1935 clearly shows a flagpole south of the central portico of the Main Hospital, close to or in the same location as the current flagpole. A 1950 master plan map of the VA Hospital campus at Jefferson Barracks also shows a flagpole at this site.² The current flagpole appears to date from the last twenty years and is surrounded by brick pavement that was installed fairly recently to form a memorial.

Sources:

Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers. *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*. 1950. On file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Veterans Bureau. *Plot Plan, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., No. 92, Roads and Walks*. 1925. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T

¹ U.S. Veterans Bureau, *Plot Plan, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., No. 92, Roads and Walks*, 1925, on file at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

² Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*, 1950, on file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

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